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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 4 January 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the 183rd anniversary of the usurpation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom, marked on 3 January (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Mateo **Estreme**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 January 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

"On 3 January 1833, the Malvinas Islands were occupied by British forces, which evicted the Argentine population and authorities lawfully established there and replaced them with subjects of the occupying Power. The Argentine Republic immediately protested that illegitimate act of force, which continues today and to which it never consented.

Since its beginnings as an independent nation, the Argentine Republic has, through government acts, publicly expressed its political resolve to exercise its effective sovereignty over the southern territories and maritime areas which it inherited from Spain.

Today, 183 years after the start of that illegal occupation, which is still continuing, the Argentine people and Government reaffirm once again the inalienable sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

The permanent and unrenounceable objective of recovering the full exercise of sovereignty over these territories and maritime areas, in accordance with the principles of international law, while respecting the way of life of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands is enshrined in the first transitional provision of the national Constitution. This objective is a State policy and reflects the collective desire of the entire Argentine people.

Last year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the first resolution to refer specifically to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which was endorsed in all subsequent resolutions on the matter adopted by the Assembly and its Special Committee on decolonization.

For decades, the international community has singled out the question of the Malvinas Islands as one of the forms of colonialism that must be brought to an end and has urged Argentina and the United Kingdom to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, through bilateral negotiations.

Our region has unanimously rejected the British military presence in the South Atlantic and has expressed its concern through a variety of pronouncements at the presidential summits of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) States parties and associated States, of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and at the Ibero-American Summit. Other regions have also expressed their support for the resumption of negotiations at forums such as the South American and Arab Countries Summit and the Africa-South America Summit.

Additionally, the Group of 77 and China has expressly recognized the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal action, with full respect for international law and relevant resolutions, against unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in its maritime areas, which include the continental shelf.

Fifty years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), the Argentine Republic renews its firm commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, international law and multilateralism. It invites the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a just and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, taking the path of dialogue, peace and diplomacy in line with the calls of the international community."

Buenos Aires, 3 January 2016